



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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Laurel Man Pleads Guilty to Drug-Related Robbery at Clarksville Home

A 19-year-old Laurel man has pleaded guilty to the April 10 drug-related armed robbery at a Clarksville home. Abdulai Karim Sesay Braima, of the 91000 block of Canterbury Riding, pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree assault, two counts of armed robbery and two counts of use of a firearm in commission of a crime of violence in Howard County Circuit Court this morning.

Assistant States Attorney Natasha Byus told the court that police responded to a home, located in the 5900 block of Trotter Road, shortly after midnight on April 11 where the occupants reported that two men had robbed them after being invited into the residence to conduct a drug transaction. Once the two men entered the homeowner's bedroom, Braima produced a semi-automatic handgun, announced a robbery and held the gun to the homeowner's head. The two then proceeded to rob the victims of their cell phones, along with luxury clothing accessories and a Rolex watch— all of which totaled over \$13,000.

Byus stated that Braima's accomplice, Irvin Jacob Smith, 23, of the 9600 block of Overton Drive, Laurel, was known and identified by one of the victims. In addition to police surveillance and other investigative measures, home surveillance cameras captured images of the suspects entering and exiting the residence. Once Smith was arrested he admitted to planning the robbery.

Judge William V. Tucker set Braima's sentencing hearing for March 1, 2018. Irvin Smith, who pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree assault and to counts of robbery on November 6 will be sentenced on January 5, 2018.

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